

EXHIBIT 27

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U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Aviation
Administration

Civil Aviation Security Information Circular

Information of Concern to Aviation Security Personnel
Current Security Procedures Should be Reviewed in Light of
This Information

Subject: Continued Middle Eastern Threats to Civil Aviation

Number: IC-2001-04 **Date:** April 18, 2001

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EXPIRATION: July 31, 2001.

This Information Circular supercedes IC-2001-01, which expired on April 18, 2001.

INFORMATION: The U.S. Government continues to receive reports that prompt concern about the safety and security of U.S. citizens traveling throughout the Middle East. In recent weeks, the armed conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has escalated dangerously with each side using heavy military weapons to inflict increasing damage on the other. Recent cross-border attacks by [REDACTED] from Lebanon into Israel and the subsequent Israeli military response threaten to widen the conflict in the region. [REDACTED] and numerous Palestinian groups involved in the uprising have shown increased resolve to continue and expand their anti-Israeli activities.

The animosity driving such activity has also inflamed anti-U.S. sentiment. Since the beginning of the year, information about potential threats to U.S. interests has led a number of U.S. Embassies to temporarily suspended services in order to review their security.

Additional issues that may serve as catalysts for violence against U.S. interests overseas stem from ongoing terrorism trials in the United States involving Middle Eastern extremist defendants. Ahmed Ressaam was recently convicted in connection with the plot to bomb sites in the United States during the millennium celebrations. Ressaam is scheduled to be sentenced on June 28, 2001 and could receive up to 130 years in prison. Also, four alleged

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members of Usama bin Laden's al-Qa'ida terrorist organization are currently being tried in New York for their alleged involvement in the U.S. Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania. Two of the defendants could face the death penalty if convicted.

COMMENT: U.S. Government personnel and facilities remain at a heightened state of alert. It is our judgement that the potential for Middle Eastern militant groups or individuals to conduct terrorist operations against U.S. interests is high and will remain so for the next several months.

The Federal Aviation Administration does not have any credible information regarding specific plans by terrorist groups to attack U.S. civil aviation interests. Nevertheless, some of the currently active groups are known to plan and train for hijackings and have the capability to construct sophisticated IEDs concealed inside luggage and consumer products. The FAA encourages all U.S. carriers to demonstrate a high degree of alertness.

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